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MORTIFEROUS ARTIFICE

MOST POWERFUL IS HE WHO HAS HIMSELF IN HIS OWN POWER. -- SENECA

IN A STRONGHOLD MANY REALITIES REMOVED FROM OUR OWN...

THE WEAVE OF THE WEB CLOSES.

GUILE AND PATIENCE AT LAST REAP THEIR BOUNTY.

THE DAY OF THE MAGUS IS AT HAND.

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"WITHIN THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE FAMOUS FANTASTIC FOUR, A BAND OF EARTH'S DEFENDERS FACES THE DARKNESS WHICH FESTERS WITHIN ALL SOULS.

"THE FACT THAT THIS PSYCHIC TRAUMA IS ARTIFICIALLY INDUCED BY OUTSIDE FORCES DOES NOT DIMINISH ITS HORROR.

"IT IS BUT A FRACTION OF THE MASTER TAPESTRY, BUT ONE TO BE GREATLY SAVORED.

"CHAOS HAS SUCH A HONEYED PIQUANCY."

"MIDWAY BETWEEN MY EMPIRE AND THE ACTUALITY OF MY BIRTH, YET MORE SWEET TASTES OFFER THEMSELVES UP FOR SAMPLING.

"A VARIETY OF DECEPTIONS. TAKE YOUR PICK. BUT THE END RESULTS ARE THE SAME:

"EARTH'S GREATEST WARRIORS PITTED AGAINST THANOS AND THE INFINITY WATCH.

"WHAT MORE COULD ONE ASK FOR? MUCH. AND SOON THAT TOO WILL BE MINE."

HOW GOES IT WITH PHASE III OF THE OPERATION, MY THRALL?

HARMONICS CONTINUE TO BUILD.

DESIRED LEVELS OF CONCENTRATION ARE IMMINENT.

APPRISE ME INSTANTLY OF FRUITION.

KANG, COMPUTERS SHOW THAT OUR FINAL DESTINATION IS A MERE THREE DIMENSIONAL SEQUENCES AWAY.

I KNOW...

...YOU PRIMITIVE CRETIN!

...HIS MEDIEVAL MANNERS GRATE ON MY NERVES.

I MAY HAVE INITIALLY NEEDED DOOM'S DATA TO BEGIN THIS QUEST AND HE HAS BEEN OF SOME ASSISTANCE SINCE, BUT...

THE TIME TO DISPOSE OF HIM CAN'T COME SOON ENOUGH.

PREPARE TO WARP.

TELEPORTATION ELEMENT ENGAGED, KANG.

YOU OVER-BEARING PRIG.

SOON, KANG, SOON.

I HAVE ONCE AGAIN PICKED UP THAT SCANNER ABERRATION, MASTER.

I THINK--

FORGET IT!

THE TIME HAS COME TO CHECK ON GALACTUS'S CONTINGENT.

THEY WILL SOON ONCE AGAIN BE NEEDED ON STAGE.

"I PRAY THAT SUDDEN ASTRAL DISRUPTION WAVE WASN'T MORE THAN POOR GALACTUS COULD HANDLE.

"WAS ENOUGH TO DECIMATE A STAR SYSTEM, NO MORE.

"YES, MY WORRIES WERE GROUNDLESS. REINCORPORATION BEGINS.

"WHEN HE COMPLETES HIS PART IN THE GRAND WEAVE, I MUST DISPATCH HIM IMMEDIATELY, DESPITE HIS FASCINATING COMPLEXITY.

"GALACTUS TRULY IS A POWER TO BE RECKONED WITH.

"EVEN THE MOST WONDROUS VIPERS MAKE POOR PETS."

CAN'T BELIEVE... WE ACTUALLY... SURVIVED THAT.

GALACTUS'S POWER?

WHAT ELSE?

MY HIDDEN FOE HAS GREATLY UNDERESTIMATED MY MIGHT.

AN ERROR THAT SHALL COST HIM DEARLY.

BUT HE HAS SHOWN THAT HE TOO IS A BEING OF VAST *RESOURCES AND POWER.*

I BEGIN TO PERCEIVE THE *TRUE NATURE* OF HIS INTRIGUES.

THEY CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO CON-TINUE!

UNFORTUNATELY, THWARTING THEIR *CONSUMMATION* MAY PROVE A *DIFFICULT* AND *COSTLY* FEAT.

WHAT'S GALACTUS LOOKING AT SO *STRANGELY* ??

NO!

HE'S NOT ACTUALLY CONSIDERING USING THE MOST *AWESOME* AND *DESTRUCTIVE* *WEAPON* IN HIS ARSENAL, AND THE *UNIVERSE!*

THE *ULTIMATE NULLIFIER--!*

AND BACK AT 4FREEDOMS PLAZA, THE BATTLE CONTINUES...

A STRUGGLE SCIENTIST HANK PYM FINDS BEYOND HIS JOB CODE...

LET ME OUT OF HERE!

WITHOUT *SUPER POWERS* OR *WEAPONS*, I *WON'T* LAST LONG AROUND HERE!

LET THE TIGHTS-AND-MUSCLE CROWD WORK IT OUT BETWEEN THEM-SELVES.

I'M TAKING A POWDER INTO THE COMPUTER ROOM UNTIL THIS RUCKUS IS SETTLED!

SAY WHAT...?

NEW TELEMETRY COMING IN ON RICHARDS' SCANNERS.

INCREDIBLE!

THEY'RE PICKING UP ENERGY BROAD-CASTS TO EVERY STAR SYSTEM IN THE MILKY WAY GALAXY!

NOW THERE'S A MASSIVE ENERGY SURGE THROUGH OUT THE STAR SYSTEM.

WHAT'S GOING ON-- WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

THERE'S A SHIFT IN THE SURGE'S VIBRATORY PATTERN!

APPEARS TO BE MYRIAD PEAKS AND DIPS WITHIN THE HARMONIC STRUCTURE ITSELF.

THE BROADCAST IS OBVIOUSLY TRYING TO MATCH FREQUENCIES WITH AN EXISTING PATTERN.

IT'S ALMOST AS IF IT WERE...

GOOD LORD!

AND IN THE DIMENSION WHERE RESIDES THE MAGUS'S RELAY CONFIGURATION...

AWAY FROM ME YOU DOLTS!

CAN YOU NOT UNDERSTAND THAT?!

WE UNDER-STAND THAT WHAT-EVER *VILLAINY* YOU'RE UP TO OUGHTTA BE SCUTTLED, TITAN!

HANG IN THERE, *ROGUE!*

I'M...

...SORRY.

AND A *HUE* I DON'T APPRECIATE SEEING ON ANOTHER!

GOT HIM!

GOOD WORK, BOBBY!

HEY!

WHERE DID HE GO?

MUST BE AROUND HERE SOME-WHERE!

BUT WHERE?

GOTCHA!

BEHIND YOU!

GOTCHA AGAIN!!

WOLVERINE! NOT WITH YOUR CLAWS!

AND FOR THE LAST TIME, SHORTY!

MS. RICHARDS?

SITUATION UNDER CONTROL, THANK YOU.

DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME MONITORING THE EARTHEN CONFLICT.

IT IS REALLY OF NO CONCERN TO ANYONE OTHER THAN THOSE DIRECTLY INVOLVED.

MY DOUBLES WILL PERFORM ADEQUATELY WITHOUT SUPERVISION.

"DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEY POSSESS NOWHERE NEAR THE FIGHTING SPIRIT THE ORIGINALS DO, THE ADVANTAGE IS STILL THEIRS.

"THEY MAY FALL AND FADE FROM BATTLE...

"...BUT MY *INSTRU-MENTATION* IS PROGRAMMED TO AUTOMATICALLY *REINTRODUCE* THEIR PRESENCE TO THE STRUGGLE.

"AN ENEMY THAT *REFUSES* TO REMAIN *DEAD* AFTER YOU KILL HIM IS A FOE WHO *CANNOT* BE *DEFEATED*."

BREAKING THROUGH TO THE *DESIRED REALITY*.

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT WE WILL HAVE *NO TROUBLE* LOCATING OUR MYSTERIOUS ADVERSARY'S *STRONGHOLD*.

INDEED. WITH *MIGHT* SUCH AS HIS, *STEALTH* NO LONGER NEED BE A CONSIDER-ATION.

WE, ON THE OTHER HAND, CANNOT AFFORD THAT PARTICULAR LUXURY.

MAINTAIN THE CRAFT'S CLOAKING SCREEN AND ACTIVATE THE SIMILAR DEVICE ON YOUR PERSONAL SURVIVAL UNIT.

YOU CAN ALMOST FEEL THE POWER FROM HERE.

FOOL DOOM IS BECOMING BLINDED BY GRAND AMBITION.

PERHAPS NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO ELIMINATE HIM.

SCANNERS SHOW THE POWER CENTER IS IN THAT STRUCTURE.

NO. HE MAY STILL PROVE USEFUL.

THE READINGS ARE GOING OFF THE SCALE.

DID I NOT TELL YOU THIS PRIZE WAS WORTH ANY RISK?

YOU'VE MORE THAN SERVED YOUR PURPOSE.

YOUR PATRONIZING IMPERIAL MANNER WILL LONG BE REMEMBERED.

CELLULAR LOCK.

SIMPLE ENOUGH TO OVERRIDE.

INSIGNIFICANT SAFEGUARDS FOR SUCH A PRICELESS TREASURE.

OUR FOE APPARENTLY THOUGHT NO ONE WOULD EVER BE ABLE TO BREACH HIS POSITION'S DIMENSIONAL DEFENSES.

A CONCEIT THAT WILL COST HIM NEAR OMNIPOTENCE.

ACCESS

THE READINGS ARE CENTERING ON THE CEILING MODULE.

THEN LET US INVESTIGATE.

AND ARRANGE A FATAL ACCIDENT FOR YOU, DEAR KANG.

WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE HE UTILIZED THIS POWER THROUGH INSTRUMENTATION?

SCANNERS SHOW THE PRESENCE OF SUBLIMINAL DISRUPTIVE HARMONICS AND RADIATIONS.

PROLONGED DIRECT USE OF THE CONTAINMENT VESSELS WOULD CAUSE BRAIN DAMAGE AND--

AMAZING!

INCREDIBLE DURABILITY, I MUST SAY.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO PUT YOU THREE DOWN?

MORE THAN YOU CRETINS POSSESS.

THAT WE SHALL *SEE*, TITAN.

NO, WE SHALL *NOT*, OLYMPIAN.

FOR ONE IS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR WHO WILL SADLY PUT AN *END* TO ALL THIS DELIGHTFUL MAYHEM.

GALACTUS.

THANOS, WARLOCK AND MANY OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES?

WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE?

A STASIS FIELD AND TRANSPORT BEAM SHOULD PUT AN END TO THEIR PETTY SQUABBLING.

THEIR PRESENCE IS OF NO CONSE-QUENCE.

BUT THEY MAY POSSESS INFORMATION THAT MAY BE OF SOME USE.

TRUE, FURTHER INTELLIGENCE ON THIS AFFAIR MIGHT PROVE HELPFUL.

VERY WELL...

I HAD WONDERED HOW GALACTUS WOULD QUELL THEIR HOSTILITIES....

NO, BUT DON'T LET THAT FACT PUT ANY SELF-DESTRUCTIVE NOTIONS IN YOUR HEAD.

THEN YOU ARE NOT ALL-KNOWING, MASTER?

YOU REALIZE WHAT THEY ARE, DON'T YOU?

OF COURSE. INCREDIBLY CONCENTRATED ASTRAL ENERGY CONTAIN-MENT UNITS.

THEY EXIST NOT IN MY TIME PERIOD.

I HAD THOUGHT THEM BUT A LEGEND.

THERE WAS ONE STORY ABOUT A WON-DROUS DEVICE CALLED THE COSMIC CUBE.

WELL, KANG, YOU ARE NOW LOOKING AT FIVE COSMIC CUBES!

NOT ALL CUBES, BUT ALL PROTECTED FROM THEFT BY POWERFUL EXPLOSIVES SET TO IGNITE IF TAMPERING OCCURS.

THIS IS A SAFE-GUARD I CANNOT OVERRIDE FROM HERE.

THEN WE MUST SEIZE OUR ENEMY'S CONTROL CENTER.

WHICH I SUSPECT WILL BE NO EASY ACCOMPLISHMENT.

ONE WE MAY FAIL AT...

...WHICH IS WHY WE SHALL LEAVE BEHIND A TIMED EXPLOSIVE CHARGE OF OUR OWN.

EXCEPT DOOM.

IF SUCH POWER BE DENIED TO KANG, LET NO MAN POSSESS IT.

GALACTUS, WE MUST RETURN TO OUR OWN REALITY AND AID OUR FRIENDS.

I KNEW THE PRESENCE OF EARTH'S HEROES MEANT BIG TROUBLE BACK HOME.

IMPOSSIBLE.

I CURRENTLY HAVE NEED OF STRANGE'S TALENTS.

BUT OUR ALLIES FACE HOPELESS ODDS THAT WE MAY CHANGE.

NORRIN RADD, MUST YOU FOR-EVER BE THE NOBLE FOOL?

VERY WELL. STRANGE, MAIN-TAIN YOUR MYSTIC PORTAL.

A NEGATIVELY CHARGED STREAM OF IONS BEAMED INTO OUR ENEMY'S BROADCAST BACK TO EARTH SHOULD DISRUPT HIS PLANS.

YOUR COMRADES HAVE BEEN SAVED.

NOW MAY WE RETURN TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND?

CRYSTAL! WHAT HAPPENED?

YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE.

STRANGEST METAMORPHOSIS I EVER SAW.

META- WHAT?

THE QUICKEST WAY TO GAIN THE INTELLIGENCE I SEEK IS THROUGH A CEREBRAL SCAN OF ALL RECENT MEMORIES.

STEADY YOURSELVES, MORTALS.

THIS UNIT IS NOT ADEQUATELY INSULATED FOR THE SENSITIVITIES OF YOUR FRAIL SYSTEMS.

AT FIRST ALL EXPERIENCE NO MORE THAN A MILD FEELING OF DISORIENTATION, HARDLY NOTICEABLE...

THEN A FLOOD OF DIVERSE MEMORIES POURS INWARD. NONE ESCAPES THE ONSLAUGHT.

DOZENS OF PERSPECTIVES COLLIDE AND MERGE.

A DEVASTATING EXPERIENCE.

BUT AN ENLIGHTENING ONE.

INTERESTING.

VERY INTERESTING.

THANOS! HE'S ON THE SIDE OF THE--

ANYONE GOT AN ASPIRIN?

--ANGELS THIS TIME!

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE ONE OF THE *GOOD GUYS* FOR A CHANGE?

DISTASTEFUL.

BUT IT IS *MY UNIVERSE* AS WELL.

WHAT'S THANOS UP TO *NOW*?

PROBABLY THE SAME THING GALACTUS IS DOING--TRYING TO FIGURE OUT OUR *NEXT* MOVE.

UNUSUAL *DATA* YOUR SENSORS ARE PICKING UP.

IT WOULD APPEAR THE MAGUS HAS *UPPED* THE *ANTE* IN THIS GAME.

OUR COMPANIONS ARE GOING TO BE *UPSET* WHEN THEY FIND OUT.

WELL, WITH GALACTUS ON THE JOB, WE'VE GOT NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

HE CAN KICK ANYONE'S TAIL WITHOUT BREAKING A SWEAT.

POWER ALONE WILL NOT WIN THIS DAY.

IS HE SAYING WHAT I THINK HE'S SAYING?

DIMENSIONAL RIFTS INTERFERING WITH SCANS BACK TO OUR REALITY.

NO WAY TO CONFIRM THE EFFECTS OF THE MAGUS'S LATEST BROAD-CASTS.

TOO POWERFUL TO DISRUPT THIS TIME.

THOR, I WOULD HAVE YOU JOURNEY BACK TO OUR ACTUALITY.

WHY?

SO THAT MY INSTRUMEN-TATION CAN OPERATE VIA THE WAVE-LENGTH OF YOUR MYSTIC HAMMER.

THE DEFENSE OF OUR UNIVERSE REQUIRES THE DATA THIS METHOD WILL ACCUMULATE.

"YOU WILL BE AUTO-MATICALLY TRANS-PORTED BACK TO THIS DIMENSION ONCE ALL PERTINENT DATA IS ACQUIRED."

BUT WARLOCK'S DIRE FATE IS AT THE DOOR.

TRUE.

I SEE NO REASON TO WAIT ANY LONGER.

WE ALL SEEM TO BE HAUNTED BY UNWANTED DESTINY THIS DAY.

WILL ADAM BE ABLE TO HANDLE IT?

WHEN DIVINE, HE EXPELLED ALL GOOD AND EVIL FROM HIMSELF, THUS RE-CREATING THE MAGUS.

NOW WE ARE EXPECTING HIM TO REABSORB THAT EVIL.

IT IS THE ONLY WAY I SEE TO DEFEAT THE MAGUS.

BUT WITHOUT HIS GOOD SIDE FOR BALANCE, HOW WILL WARLOCK MANAGE AFTERWARDS?

PERHAPS WE ARE BUT CREATING A *WORSE MONSTER* THAN EVEN THE MAGUS.

BUT YOU WILL *CONTINUE ON* WITH YOUR PLAN, THANOS.

THAT IS *YOUR WAY* AND THE *ONLY OPTION* I HAVE LEFT *OPEN* TO YOU.

FOOTPRINTS IN THE DUST OF EARTH'S MOON.

BUT THEY BELONG NOT TO MIGHTY THOR ALONE.

I TELL YOU, WATCHER, GALACTUS SENDING ME BACK MAKES NO *SENSE*.

THERE'S *NOTHING* HAPPENING HERE.

PATIENCE, GODLING.

GOOD LORD!

"THERE'RE TWO EARTHS OUT THERE!"

"AND NOW ALSO TWO MOONS, FRIEND THOR."

"YOU KNEW THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN?"

"NOT PRECISELY, ONLY THAT A GRAND COSMIC EVENT WAS IMMINENT."

WONDER IF THEY'RE EVEN AWARE OF WHAT'S HAPPENING BACK ON EARTH.

BETTER CONTACT SOMEONE ON THIS AVENGERS' COMMUNICARD THEY GAVE ME.

THOR TO ANY AVENGER LISTENING! DO YOU READ ME?

COME IN, PLEASE.

AT THIS MOMENT, BOTH GALACTUS AND THANOS ARE MAKING IMPORTANT DECISIONS.

I ALREADY KNOW WHAT THEY WILL BE BECAUSE OF MY STUDIES OF BOTH BEINGS' PSYCHO-LOGICAL PRO-FILES.

THANOS SHOULD ANNOUNCE HIS FIRST.

THE TIME IS UPON US?

YES, BUT I SENSE MORE AFOOT THAN ANY WOULD SUSPECT.

IF I MIGHT SUGGEST...

WHAT ARE THOSE TWO UP TO NOW, MOONDRAGON?

CAP, I BELIEVE THANOS IS PRE-PARING TO PULL OUT THE BIG GUNS.

MEANING?

YOU CALLED?

WE HAVE POSTPONED THE INEVITABLE LONG ENOUGH.

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU WANT...

EACH OF YOUR INFINITY GEMS.

I'M NOT CRAZY ABOUT THIS.

NOR I.

YOU ECHO MY OWN SENTIMENTS.

SO? I KEEP MY GEM BETWEEN MY TOES!

BIG DEAL!

FEW WOULD DARE SEARCH FOR IT THERE.

WHAT ABOUT DRAX'S POWER GEM?

HE SWALLOWED IT, REMEMBER?

THAT DOES PRESENT A PROBLEM.

ONE THAT I CAN EASILY REMEDY...

SEE?

THANK YOU.

LOT EASIER THAN CUTTING HIM OPEN.

THE INFINITY GAUNTLET!!

I PRAYED I WOULD NEVER AGAIN SEE IT IN THIS EX-ISTENCE.

YOU ALREADY HAVE THE REALITY GEM...?

CURIOUS.

HOW'D HE DO THAT?!

WHY GREEN LADY ALWAYS HITTING DRAX?

UNLESS HE HAD IT ALL ALONG AND ALL HIS TALK ABOUT HAVING A SECRET PROTECTOR WAS BULL.

PERHAPS THAT PROTECTOR IS AMONG EARTH'S EXPEDI-TIONARY FORCE.

I WONDER--?

SUCH SPECULATION IS OF NO IMPORT AT THE MOMENT.

PLEASE STAND BACK.

I MAY NOT IMMEDIATELY HAVE FULL CONTROL OF THE POWER ONCE IT IS UPON ME.

IF I AM CORRECT, CONTROL IS THE LAST THING YOU NEED TO WORRY ABOUT, DEAR ADAM.

AND IF YOU ARE IN-CORRECT?

I AM DOOMED.

IT'S NOT WORKING!

THE POWER IS NOT COMING TO ME!

IT MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE LIVING TRIBUNAL'S RULING YOU WERE TELLING ME ABOUT.

TERRIFIC.

WORKING PERIOD.

HIS JUDGMENT IS OBVIOUSLY KEEPING THE GEMS FROM WORKING IN UNISON.

TRY AS I MAY, I CAN'T RAISE ANY KIND OF PSYCHIC RESPONSE FROM THE MIND GEM.

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THEY SHUT DOWN COMPLETELY WHEN BROUGHT TOGETHER.

I SUSPECTED AS MUCH AND HAVE PREPARED FOR THE EVENTUALITY.

IN WHAT WAY?

I HAVE ALERTED THE *LIVING TRIBUNAL* THAT I AM REQUESTING A *NEW MEETING* CONCERNING THE INFINITY GEMS.

HE HAS AGREED TO GRANT *US* SUCH A MEETING?

NOT *US*. *ME*.

STRIPPED OF *DIVINE POWER*, WARLOCK, YOU ARE LESS THAN *NOTHING* TO THE LIVING TRIBUNAL.

HE WILL ONLY ADDRESS THE *CONCERNS* OF A BEING OF MY STATURE, A TRULY COSMIC *ENTITY*.

BUT I WILL REQUIRE THE PRESENCE OF ONE OF THE INFINITY WATCH AS A *REP-RESENTATIVE* OF THE *LEGAL POSSESSORS* OF THE GEMS.

ME?

NO. YOU AND THE *GEMS* MAY PROVE TOO TEMPTING AN *ENTICEMENT* FOR ETERNITY SHOULD HE REGAIN HIS SENSES.

I WILL TAKE *HER* WITH ME.

GAMORA?

LET US BE AWAY.

I'M NOT SURE I LIKE GALACTUS CALLING THE SHOTS.

IT'S BETTER THAN THANOS AND THAT WARLOCK GOING OFF ON THEIR OWN.

'TIS TIME FOR US TO ONCE AGAIN TAKE CONTROL OF THE SITUATION.

WHAT?!

I HAVE COME FOR YOU, MY SHADOW.

NO!

NO!

LOOK OUT, YA IDJIT!

NOW WHAT?

GALACTUS'S MISSION IS SUDDENLY MOOT.

I THINK WE JUST SAW THE UNIVERSE'S LAST HOPE FADE AWAY.

THERE MUST BE SOME-THING WE CAN DO.

YES, WE CAN STOMP THANOS.

THIS WHOLE MESS IS PROBABLY HIS DOING ANYHOW.

HULK, I HAD HEARD RUMORS THAT YOU WERE NO LONGER AN UNTHINKING BRUTE.

IT WOULD APPEAR THOSE REPORTS WERE IN ERROR.

OTHERWISE YOU WOULD REALIZE THAT I MAY WELL BE YOUR REALITY'S ONLY CHANCE FOR SALVATION.

HE HAS USED HIS VAST *UNKNOWN POWER* TO CREATE A *DUPLICATE REALITY* WHICH IS NOW *MERGING* WITH THE *ORIGINAL*.

WHEN THAT MERGER IS *COMPLETE*, THE GALAXY WILL BE TOTALLY IN HIS *THRALL!*

AS ARE THE *DOPPELGANGERS* THAT DEFEATED YOUR LOST FRIENDS.

AND BY THE WAY, EVERYONE BACK ON *EARTH* AND THE REST OF THE GALAXY ARE *ENTRANCED*.

THANKS FOR THE OFFER, THANOS.

BUT *YOUR* KIND OF HELP WE CAN DO *WITHOUT*.

HAVE IT YOUR WAY, THEN.

BUT YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING THAT THE *MAGUS* IS IN THE PROCESS OF TAKING OVER THE ENTIRE *MILKY WAY GALAXY*.

IT IS TO MAKE THE TAKEOVER GO MORE *SMOOTHLY*.

HOW DO YOU--

FROM THE *TELEMETRY* BEING TRANSMITTED THROUGH *THOR'S HAMMER*.

CYCLOPS, GET EVERYONE IN HERE.

WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS SITUATION, FAST!

NOVA, WILL YOU HELP US USE THE POWER OF GALACTUS'S SHIP?

IN ANY WAY I CAN.

MOONDRAGON, PROF. X, CAN YOU UTILIZE YOUR PSYCHIC SKILLS TO AWAKEN EARTH'S POPULACE TO MENTALLY RESIST THE MAGUS' CONQUEST?

BACKED BY GALACTUS'S EQUIPMENT AND TRANS-MITTED THROUGH HIS BROAD-CAST-ERS.

PERHAPS.

NOVA, WORK WITH THE MAN.

DOC, I WANT YOU AND THE REST OF THE MYSTICS TO HIGHTAIL IT BACK TO OUR DIMENSION AND SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO.

BUT YOU--

WILL GET ALONG FINE UNTIL YOU COME BACK FOR US. NOW GO!

THE REST OF YOU GATHER BELOW THE VIEW SCREEN.

WE'VE GOT STRATEGY TO DISCUSS.

WHAT ABOUT ADAM?

I IMAGINE WARLOCK IS DEAD BY NOW.

IT'S PAINFULLY APPARENT THAT HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MAGUS'S MAIN GOALS ALL ALONG.

OOO

"THE MAGUS PLAYED US ALL MASTERFULLY.

"HE OBVIOUSLY MANIPULATED EACH FACTOR OF THIS LITTLE DRAMA WITH SKILL EVEN I MUST ADMIRE.

"BUT HE HAS AT LAST OVER-PLAYED HIS HAND.

"I NOW SEE WHERE HE IS HEADING AND WHAT HIS END DESIRE IS."

I SHALL YET THWART HIS DREAMS.

MRS. RICHARDS, I UNDERSTAND THAT GALACTUS POSSESSES AN INCREDIBLY DESTRUCTIVE WEAPON ABOARD THIS SHIP...

IS HE TALKING ABOUT THE ULTIMATE NULLIFIER?

THANK YOU. I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT KNOW WHERE IT WAS STORED.

CLEVER. CONCEALED IN PLAIN SIGHT.

NO!

YES, IT RADIATES DARK POWER.

THAT'S THE ULTIMATE NULLIFIER THANOS HAS!

THE NULLIFIER?

I HAVE HEARD OF IT.

IT IS SAID THAT THIS DEVICE HAS ONLY ONE DRAWBACK.

IT IS TOO POWERFUL.

IF NOT UTILIZED WITH PRECISE CORRECTNESS, THE BEARER IS DESTROYED ALONG WITH THE TARGET.

EXTREMELY INCONVENIENT.

IT COULD EASILY TERMINATE THE ANNOYANCE WHICH IS THE MAGUS.

BUT TO FIRE SUCH A WEAPON WOULD TAKE A NOBLER SOUL THAN MINE.

PERHAPS A BRAVER SPIRIT MIGHT BE FOUND AMONG THIS COMPANY.

ONE WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO SACRIFICE HIS OWN LIFE FOR THE GOOD OF THE UNIVERSE.

COOL DOWN, WOLVERINE.

LET'S SEE WHAT HE'S UP TO.

IT WOULD REQUIRE A HERO WITH POWER TO MATCH HIS COURAGE.

FOR OUR KNIGHT WOULD HAVE TO FIRE HIS WEAPON WITHIN THE MAGUS'S DIMENSION, SO AS NOT TO DRAG HIS COMRADES INTO POSSIBLE OBLIVION.

HOW STEELY IS YOUR RESOLVE, QUASAR?

FINELY TEMPERED.

DON'T DO IT, QUASAR!

'TIS NOT A DARE WORTHY OF ACCEPT-ANCE!

BUT IT MAY WELL BE OUR ONLY OUT.

GALACTUS, I AM READY TO CONSIDER YOUR CASE. PRESENT IT WELL, FOR YOUR DIMENSION AND ITS VERY EXISTENCE MAY DEPEND ON THE OUTCOME OF THIS HEARING.

TO BE CONTINUED

OK C.O.M.P.U.T.O.
novus
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